

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

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SUBJ: UNIP GENERAL CONFERENCE AUGUST 25-26

REF: LUSAKA A-98

1. UNIP GENERAL CONFERENCE AT MULUNGUSHI ROCK NEAR KABWE AUGUST 25-26 TO ADOPT NEW UNIP CONSTITUTION, APPROVE PARTY PLATFORM, NOMINATE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, AND ELECT NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH TO BE NATION'S SUPREME POLICY-MAKING BODY UNDER NEW NATIONAL CONSTITUTION. LATTER DOCUMENT RATIFIED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY EARLIER THIS MONTH AND TO GO INTO EFFECT UPON SIGNATURE BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA AT MULUNGUSHI AUGUST 25.

2. EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO SET STAGE FOR CUT AND DRIED PROCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTENTIONS KAUNDA AND PRESENT UNIP CENTRAL COMMITTEE. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO OPPOSE OFFICIAL SLATE FOR PRESIDENCY AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE, BUT MEANINGFUL CHALLENGE VIRTUALLY PRECLUDED BY NOMINATING PROCEDURES, DELAY IN ANNOUNCING OFFICIAL SLATE UNTIL AFTER CONFERENCE CONVENES, AND MONUMENTAL TASK OF ATTEMPTING MARSHALL SUPPORT AMONG 6,000 DELEGATES IN SHORT TIME REMAINING.

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3. KAUNDA WILL OF COURSE BE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BUT

PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE BEING VERY CLOSELY HELD. PRESIDENT SO FAR MAINTAINING SILENCE ABOUT HIS INTENTIONS REGARDING COMPOSITION OF CABINET AND HIS CHOICES FOR PRIME MINISTER AND UNIP SECRETARY GENERAL.

4. MOBUTU AND NYERERE ARE TO BE LEADING FOREIGN GUESTS AT CONFERENCE WHICH BOTH SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS AUGUST 25. ACCORDING OUR INFORMATION, VICE PRESIDENTS OF KENYA AND BOTSWANA TO BE PRESENT ALSO ALONG WITH DELEGATIONS FROM MALAWI, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND. NELSON

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